

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 7182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, JO

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED REVISION OF 1974 AID AGREEMENT FOR STAFFING
AND EQUIPPING JORDANIAN NARCOTICS BUREAU

REF: (A) AID NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM AGREEMENT (PROJECT
#278-11-790-180, DEC 1974), (B) 75 AMMAN 5337, (C) 75 STATE
240726, (D) 75 AMMAN 8546, (E) OPERATION SALADIN ASSESSMENT,
DEC. 1975 (WALTER LEAMY)

1. SUMMARY: JORDANIAN NARCOTICS BUREAU'S PERSONNEL STRENGTH
STANDS CURRENTLY AT 29, WITH NO PROSPECT OF ATTAINING
COMPLEMENT OF 84 PROJECTED IN 1974 PROAG. RECENT REPLACE-
MENT OF PSF CHIEF ANWAR MOHAMMAD BY LTG GHAZI ARABIYAAT,
FROMER CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE WHO IS SYMPATHETIC TO
JNB GOALS, OFFERS IDEAL OPPORTUNITY TO RENEGOTIATE PROAG,
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT LOWER, MORE REALISTIC PERSONNEL LEVEL.
ARABIYAAT CAN GUARANTEE VIRTUALLY IMMEDIATE PERSONNEL IN-
CREASE TO 45 WELL-CHOSE POLICEN BECAUSE OF OVERALL PSF
PERSONNEL SHORTAGES, HE SEES LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF INCREASE
ABOVE THIS NUMBER. GIVEN ARABIYAAT'S PERSONAL ASSURANCES
TO AMBASSADOR, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS RENEGOTIATION OF PROAG
TO STIPULATE 45 MAN JNB ROSTER IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR
DELIVERY OF FINAL 3 SEDANS AND 15 OF 30 REVOLVERS STILL
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RETAINED BY EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

2. ADDRESSEES ARE FAMILIAR WITH PERSONALITY AND ORGANIZATIONAL IMPEDIMENTS WHICH HAVE PREVENTED JORDANIAN NARCOTICS BUREAU FROM ACHIEVING FULL COMPLEMENT OF 84 PERSONNEL AGREED TO IN 1974 AID AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH PROAG DID NOT SPECIFY PERIOD IN WHICH INCREASE FROM ORIGINAL PERSONNEL STRENGTH OF 21 MEN TO FULL COMPLEMENT WOULD OCCUR, UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED WITH JNB CHIEF LTC GHAREYBEH AT TIME PROAG WAS NEGOTIATED THAT THIS TARGET WOULD BE ACHIEVED OVER APPROXIMATELY TWO-YEAR PERIOD. AT PRESENT TIME, UNIT HAS 29 POLICE PERSONNEL (1 LTC, 5 CAPTAIN, 2 LTS, 2 WARRANT OFFICERS, 9 NCO'S, AND 10 PRIVATES). SINCE COMMODITY LIST IN PROAG PROVIDED FOR EQUIPMENT TO BE DELIVERED TO 84-MAN UNIT, EMBASSY HAS WITHHELD FROM DELIVERY 3 OF 6 SEDANS PROMISED, AND 30 OF 60 REVOLVERS. ALL OTHER EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO JNB.

3. A NUMBER OF FACTORS SUGGEST CONVINCINGLY THAT JNB WILL NEVER REACH COMPLEMENT OF 84 MEN, AND THAT ORIGINAL PROAG WAS FAR TOO AMBITIOUS AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE RENEGOTIATED TO ACCOUNT FOR MORE REALISTIC PERSONNEL COMPLEMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 45. (GHAREYBEH SUGGEST STAFFING PATTERN OF 5 IN AQABA, 6 IN IRBID, AND 34 IN AMMAN DISTRICT; LATTER RUNNING HEADQUARTERS NARCOTICS OPERATIONS CENTER). RECENT REPLACEMENT OF PSF DIRECTOR LTG ANWAR MOHAMMAD WITH UCH MORE VIGOROUS, ALERT MG GHAZI ARABIYAAT (FORMER CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE) HAS PROVIDED AMBASSADOR EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS SUBJECT OF NARCOTICS UNIT WITH ARABIYAAT. LATTER HAS PERSONALLY ASSURED BOTH AMBASSADOR AND NCO OF HIS DESIRE TO MOVE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE TO BRING JNB PERSONNEL STRENGTH UP TO AROUND 45 BY SELECTING BEST MEN AVAILABLE. EMBASSY IS CONVINCED OF SERIOUSNESS OF ARABIYAAT'S INTENT -- GHAREYBEH HAS ALREADY PROVIDED REVISED ORGANIZATION CHART -- AND WISHES TO RESOLVE PROBLEM OF EQUIPMENT STILL BEING HELD.

4. ACCORDINGLY, BASED ON AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATIONS WITH ARABIYAAT AND GHAREYBEH, EMBASSY SUGGESTS RENEGOTIATION OF PROAG TO STIPULATE JNB COMPLEMENT OF

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45 MEN. UPON EXCHANGE OF LETTER OF COMMITMENT BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND ARABIYAAT, REMAINING 3 VEHICLES AND 15 OF REMAINING 30 REVOLVERS WOULD BE DELIVERED TO JNB. SEVERAL FACTORS DICTATE THIS COURSE:

A. WITH EXCEPTION OF REPLACEMENT OF ANWAR MOHAMMAD AS PSF CHIEF, OBSTACLES TO WIDE-SCALE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORT OUTLINED IN LEAMY'S ELOQUENT APPRAISAL (REF E) STILL EXIST. STRONG SUPPORT AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF

GOJ IS STILL ABSENT. GHAREYBEH STILL MUST DIVIDE HIS TIME BETWEEN HIS JNB DUTIES AND HIS POSITION AS HEAD OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION OF PSF.

B. MG ARABIYAAT HAS STATED FLATLY THAT PERSONNEL COMPLEMENT OF 84 IN ORIGINAL AGREEMENT WAS "HUGE MIS-TAKE" AND NEVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED. PSF IS ALREADY SHORT-HANDED, AND WHILE ARABIYAAT HAS GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO DEMONSTRATE HIS WILLINGNESS IMMEDIATELY TO PROVIDE PERSONNEL FOR 45-MAN COMPLEMENT, FURTHER EXPANSION, IN HIS VIEW, IS OUT OF QUESTION.

C. WHILE EMBASSY IS AWARE OF LEAMY'S EVALUATION THAT JNB COMPLEMENT OF NO LESS THAN 75 NECESSARY EFFECTIVELY TO PERFORM COMPLETE NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING AND ENFORCEMENT JOB (REF E, P. 11), GHAREYBEH AND ARABIYAAT CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT PROPER JOB CAN BE DONE WITH SMALLER ROSTER, IF PARTICULAR CARE IS TAKEN IN PERSONNEL SELECTION AND TRAINING. PERSONAL ATTENTION OF ARABIYAAT TO JNB PERSONNEL SELECTION WOULD APPEAR TO EMBASSY TO INSURE MOST EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE FROM JNB AS CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

5. GHAREYBEH HAS SAID THAT HE PLANS TO CONCENTRATE ON DEVELOPING IRBID AND AQABA DISTRICT OFFICES. EMBASSY SUPPORT DELIVERY OF ADDITIONAL 3 VEHICLES TO JNB (1 EACH IN AMMAN, IRBID AND AQABA) IN ORDER TO SUPPORT GHAREYBEH IN THIS TASK.

6. AMBASSADOR HAS INFORMED ARABIYAAT AND GHAREYBEH THAT EMBASSY WILL FORWARD ABOVE PROPOSALS TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSIDERATION. WE FEEL THAT ARABIYAAT'S APPOINTMENT OFFERS SINGULARLY ADVANTAGEOUS OPPORTUNITY TO RESOLVE LINGERING NARCOTICS-RELATED PROBLEMS ON BASIS OF MORE REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT JORDANIANS ARE CAPABLE OF

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HANDLING AND OF OUR CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF MORE LIMITED EXTENT OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING PROBLEM IN JORDAN THAN WAS CASE WHEN 84-MAN AGREEMENT WAS NEGOTIATED. DURING AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ARABIYAAT, LATTER MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE FELT THAT JORDANIAN NARCOTICS PROBLEM WAS ONE WHICH WAS MANAGEABLE WITH FORCE OF 45 MEN, WHICH WAS ALSO A FIGURE MORE IN KEEPING WITH JORDANIAN CAPABILITIES. EMBASSY SUPPORTS THIS JUDGMENT. GIVEN THESE FACTS AND ARABIYAAT'S POSITION, OUR ONLY OPTION, THEREFORE, APPEARS TO BE ARRANGING AN AGREEMENT TO MOVE FROM 29 TO 45 MEN RATHER THAN FROM 29 TO 84. FURTHERMORE WE BELIEVE PERSONAL VACKING OF CHIEF OF PSF COUPLED WITH FURNISHING OF EQUIPMENT, WILL BE GREAT HELP TO MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE FROM 45-MAN UNIT. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THESE CONSIDERATIONS, AMBASSADOR STRONGLY

SUPPORTS WASHINGTON'S AGREEING TO THIS SOLUTION TO THIS
LINGERING PROBLEM.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON CONCURRENCE TO
PROPOSAL SUGGESTED ABOVE. WE WOULD THEN PROCEED TO FORMAL
AGREEMENT THROUGH EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR
AND GEN. ARABIYAAT AND TO DELIVERY OF EQUIPMENT OF PSF
NARCOTICS UNIT.
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